

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ERDA-05 IO-10 OIC-02 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 TRSE-00

ACDA-05 BIB-01 CU-02 /085 W  
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R 211645Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3468

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 02530

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: CSCE SUMMIT: IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO AND MBFR

1. AMBASSADOR RESOR AND DCM RENNER CALLED ON DAVIGNON AND DE STAERCKE TO TALK ABOUT MBFR AND RELATED SUBJECTS. THE BELGIANS MADE THE FOLLOWING PITCH:

2. WITH THE CSCE SUMMIT LOOMING, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE NATO AND MBFR DUCKS BE GOTTEN IN LINE. THE BELGIANS HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY ENVISAGING BREZHNEV HAMMERING HOME IN HELSINKI THAT THE CSCE SIGNING REFLECTS A MAJOR RELAXATION OF EAST-WEST TENSIONS AND THAT THE NEXT BIG STEP SHOULD BE TAKEN IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. BREZHNEV COULD THEN EXTOL THE MERITS OF SPECIFIC SOVIET POSITIONS, SUCH AS THEIR FREEZE PROPOSAL.

3. DAVIGNON THINKS THAT EUROPEANS WOULD BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THIS PLOY AND THAT NATO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ANSWER  
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BREZHNEV WITH A POSITION THAT APPEARS TO BE FORTHCOMING BUT

SAFEGUARDS NATO AND OUR MBFR INTERESTS. TO ENSURE THAT WE WILL BE WELL-POSITIONED, DE STAERCKE ADVOCATED INTENSIVE IN-HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF THE KEY MBFR ISSUES, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING A COMMON NATO POSITION ON THE NUCLEAR OPTION AND THE COMMON CEILING. DAVIGNON AND DE STAERCKE THINK THAT AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REACHED NO LATER THAN THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING ON (A) HOW BEST TO REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE OF NATO IN THE CONTEXT OF DETENTE, AS MANIFESTED BY THE CSCE SUMMIT, AND (B) COMMON POSITIONS RE MBFR AND HOW TO PUSH THESE POSITIONS TACTICALLY.

4. DAVIGNON SAID THAT NATO GOVERNMENTS WERE FACED WITH THE NEED TO PERFORM A DELICATE BALANCING ACT. ON THE ONE HAND, WE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE A READINESS TO NEGOTIATE ON MBFR AND TO MAKE CONCRETE PROPOSALS IN ORDER NOT TO LOSE CONTROL OVER PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH IS EAGER FOR FURTHER RELAXATION OF TENSION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP BEFORE THE PUBLIC THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMON DEFENSE. OTHERWISE NATO COUNTRIES WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN THEIR DEFENSE EFFORTS AND TO PERSUADE THEIR PARLIAMENTS TO GO ALONG WITH ADEQUATE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES-- PARTICULARLY FOR SUCH HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL PURCHASES AS FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. FIRESTONE

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